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SOME SPECIFIC THINGS NEEDED IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

Few are fully aware how much effort is needed in the cause of Peace. It seeks to abolish a custom prevalent all over the earth for thousands of years, deeply rooted in the worst passions of our nature, and universally wrought into the texture of society and government. You can hardly find another custom so inveterate as this; and certainly it can never be abolished without a vast amount of effort. It is upheld still through Christendom itself by wrong habits of reasoning inherited from a pagan, savage ancestry; and these habits must be rectified before the evil can be cured. It is the result mainly of a wrong education; for men are not born warriors any more than they are born drunkards or duellists. Our whole race have hitherto been educated for war; they must now be educated for peace; and this educational process must be carried on in every family until the entire mass of the people shall be trained to Christian habits of thought and feeling on this subject. The agencies requisite for such a result we must set at work everywhere. We must enlist the press, the pulpit, and the school. Every minister of Christ, every member of his church, every parent and every teacher, should become an efficient co-worker in educating the whole community to pacific sentiments and habits. Such a change would, and nothing short of this ever can, put an end, or give a serious check to this wide and terrible evil. Here is the work to which the Peace Society would urge the friends of God and man in every city and town, every village and hamlet of our land.

I. Our first request, then, is for *the prayers of Christians in behalf of this cause*. It needs their prayers as much as the Tract, the Bible or the Missionary enterprise. It must be rooted in their hearts, embalmed in their religious affections, but never will be without a hearty and habitual remembrance in their prayers. It can never prosper without God's blessing; and that never will be granted only in answer to their united and fervent supplications.

In pursuance of these views, our Society has for more than twenty years requested, and all the leading ecclesiastical bodies in the land have in express resolves recommended, that the Churches observe *an Annual Concert of Prayer for Universal Peace*. The time fixed for this concert is in the month of December on or near the 25th; and we earnestly hope, that every reader of this appeal will take seasonable and effective steps to have it observed by the church of which he is either a pastor or a private member. If there be in the place several churches of the same or different denominations, it may be well for them all to unite in the service; but look to it yourself, and make sure at any rate of having the concert in some way.

On such a theme, indeed, there *ought* to be no need of importunity with Christians. Is not peace an integral element of the religion we profess, one of its most distinctly avowed aims, one of its most clearly promised

results? Did not Isaiah, the great evangelical prophet, foretell the permanent reign of peace as the very climax of its triumphs and glories? Did not the angels, in their songs at our Saviour's birth, proclaim "peace on earth" as foremost among the objects of his coming into our world? Disciples of the Prince of Peace, sons and daughters of the God of Peace, can you refuse or forget to pray for a consummation so important and so glorious?

II. Our next request is, *that every Minister of Christ would preach on the subject of Peace at least once a year*; a service like, the annual concert of prayer, long solicited by our Society, and recommended by ecclesiastical bodies through the land. The time selected for both is the month of December; and they should ordinarily come in the same week, if not on the same day, and arrangements made for a contribution in some form to our cause.

III. We beg leave, also, to urge *the necessity of regular and habitual co-operation in this cause*. We are not particular about the precise form, if we can only secure the thing itself; but, while leaving our friends to select their own mode, we earnestly insist on their adopting some plan which shall insure habitual, reliable, efficient co-operation.

1. The simplest of these modes would be for every pastor to preach in December on the subject, and take up a collection on the spot, the avails of which might either be spent in circulating peace publications to awaken and sustain an active interest in the place, or sent to aid our Society in its operations through the land. Every one who does this, becomes thereby a member of our Society for the year, and entitled without charge to our periodical and other current publications. If not a preacher yourself, get your minister to perform this service. We earnestly hope every pastor will at least do this; and, if every one would, the 30,000 or more in our land would ere long secure for our cause all the moral and pecuniary support it needs.

2. Another very simple arrangement is to appoint a Committee of Correspondence, whose duty it shall be to correspond and co-operate with our Society, to raise funds, circulate publications, and see that the subject is steadily brought before the people by sermons or addresses. This committee need not consist of more than two or three; one as Chairman, another as Secretary, and a third as Treasurer, with as many more as you may find expedient. Our Constitution makes the Chairman of every such Committee, and the President of every Auxiliary, members *ex officio* of our Society.

3. We should, however, prefer to have, in every place where it is practicable, an Auxiliary Society of the simplest form. Let its constitution merely declare that its object is to co-operate with the American Peace Society in promoting the cause of peace, make every regular member of our Society in the place a member *ex officio* of the Auxiliary, and require for membership the annual payment of a larger or smaller sum. The mere

signing of a man's name as a member is little better than a mockery ; membership should always secure some active support for the cause. You may, if you choose, let each one subscribe what he pleases ; but you should fix \$1, or some other sum, as a condition of receiving the periodical of our Society, which we send to every donor of \$1 or more, as well as to every one who becomes a member by the annual payment of \$2, or for life by \$20 at one time. *Be sure that every member is furnished with something to read on the subject.* Let the officers be few ; or, at least, let its management be entrusted to a small number of reliable and energetic hands. Let them attempt only what they can and will execute ; but let them at all events make sure of bringing the claims of the cause publicly before the people as often as once a year. We would especially request every Auxiliary, as well as every Committee of Correspondence, immediately to put and keep themselves in communication with our Society.

4. To these modes of associated effort for our cause, we would add *the special importance of enlisting the periodical press.* Here is now the great lever for moving the civilized world, but more especially the public mind in this country where there are said to be some 2,500 periodicals flooding the entire land with their monthly, weekly, and daily issues. Nine in ten of all these might be induced to publish occasional, if not frequent articles in favour of this cause ; and our friends who can either write or select suitable pieces for the purpose, could not perform a more effective service than by getting them inserted in any of these periodicals, but more especially in those which circulate their tens of thousands of copies. Whoever will undertake such a service, and may wish for our periodical to aid him, we shall be glad to furnish, free of charge, not only the Advocate, but any of our standard publications.

Now, let us ask every reader, will you not set yourself at work in some of these ways to secure, in the place of your residence, efficient co-operation in this cause ? Is it not quite time for good men everywhere to take hold of it in earnest ? Does not the object deserve at your hands all we here ask ? Can you in any other way spend the requisite time and labor to better purpose for the glory of God, or the welfare of mankind ? The thing, if done at all, must be done by men like yourself ; for we have no agents for these purposes, and, if we had, should much prefer to accomplish them by the spontaneous co-operation of our friends. We wish, as far as possible, to supersede the necessity of special agencies by enlisting self-moved co-workers in every city, town and village.

The arrangements and efforts we now solicit, are needed for a variety of purposes, but especially for procuring funds. We need far more than most persons suppose ; for we cannot maintain, as we must, a central office, and support a periodical devoted to our cause, and scatter far and wide over the land our tracts and volumes by thousands, and scores of thousands, and bring the subject before legislatures, ecclesiastical bodies, and seminaries

of learning, to enlist their powerful aid, without an amount of funds much greater than we have yet received. The cause demands for its full success more than a tenfold increase of contributions.

No amount of money, however, can obviate the necessity of *personal efforts* for this cause. Its friends must *work* for it in every place, as the only sure means of reaching and moulding aright the mass of minds through the community. We can furnish them with publications in abundance; but these are only instruments for them to use in their respective localities. There must be *in every place* a living, responsible agency at work from year to year in behalf of this object.

We need, moreover, a network of affiliated organizations all over the land to meet the public emergencies of our cause. If we had them in every city and considerable village, how easily might we pour upon Congress such a flood of petitions as would soon prompt them to take hold of this subject in earnest, and devise substitutes for war that would be sure to obviate its alleged necessity, and prevent its recurrence. Should war be threatened, we could at once rouse the nation against it, and call forth from every village and hamlet such protests from the people as would compel our rulers to employ only peaceful measures for the adjustment of the difficulty. This object alone would more than justify such organizations all over the country; for the prevention of a single war would compensate a hundredfold all the labor and expense of keeping them up for a thousand years.

We entreat our friends through the land to ponder well the appeals here made, and no longer allow this cause to languish for lack of such contributions and efforts as they could easily give or secure. The way was never so well prepared as now for successful exertions in its behalf; and God grant that good men may not allow such a seed-time of peace to pass away without promptly turning its golden opportunities to the best possible account for the furtherance of this blessed cause.

PETITIONS TO CONGRESS.—We earnestly request our friends to forward *early in December*, petitions like the form which we subjoin. There should be one to the Senate, and another to the House of Representatives, the two signed by every petitioner; and, when full, they should be sent, the former to one of the Senators from your own State, and the other to the Representative of your district, unless there should be some special reasons for entrusting them to some member of each House known to be particularly interested in the object. ¶ We trust petitions will without fail be forwarded from every place where a single copy of the Advocate is taken. It can be easily done. Let a friend of the cause just write off two copies of the form below, go forth at once to procure as many signatures as he can, and then forward the petitions to Washington, with a letter requesting the special attention of the member of Congress to whom it is sent.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

The undersigned citizens of _____ in the State of _____, deploring the great and manifold evils of war, and believing it possible to

supersede its alleged necessity, as an Arbiter of Justice among Nations, by the timely adoption of wise and feasible substitutes, respectfully petition your Honorable Bodies to take such action as you may deem best for this most desirable end, by "securing in our treaties with other nations, a provision for referring to the decision of umpires all misunderstandings that cannot be satisfactorily adjusted by amicable negotiation."

SKETCHES OF THE VENDEAN WAR.

(Concluded.)

FINAL ATROCITIES.—The execution of these gallant chiefs put an end to the first period of the Vendean war. It might then have been terminated, had the Republicans made a humane use of their victory, and sheathed the sword after it had destroyed its enemies in the field. But the darkest period of the tragedy was approaching, and in the rear of their armies came those fiends in human form, who exceeded even the horrors of Marat and Robespierre, and have left a darker stain on French history than the tyranny of Nero or the massacre of Bartholemew. Their atrocities took all hope from the vanquished; and in despair and revenge sprung up a new set of Chouan bands, who, under Charette, Stofflet, and Tanteniac, long maintained the Royalist cause in the Western Provinces, and proved more fatal to the Republicans than all the armies of Germany.

Thurreau was the first who commenced against the Vendéans a systematic war of extermination. He formed twelve corps, aptly denominated *infernal columns*, whose orders were to traverse the country in every direction, isolate it from all communication with the rest of the world, carry off or destroy all the grain and cattle, murder all the inhabitants, and burn down all the houses. These orders were too faithfully executed; the infernal columns pierced the country in every direction, their path might be traced by the conflagration of the villages, their footsteps known by the corpses of the inhabitants. A contemporary republican writer has left this character of their exploits: "It seemed as if the Vendéans were no longer regarded as men; the pregnant woman, the child in the cradle, even the beasts on the field, the very stones, the houses, the soil itself, appeared to the Republican's enemies worthy of a total extermination." But from this atrocious warfare arose new difficulties to the invaders. From the consequences of their ravages, provisions failed equally to them as to their enemies; and the Chouan bands were swelled by multitudes who were driven to despair by the conflagration of their dwellings and the massacre of their relations. Strengthened by such recruits, the unconquerable Charette maintained the contest, and often took a bloody revenge on his enemies. Acquainted with every road and ambuscade in the country, capable of enduring the extremities of hunger, serene in danger, cheerful in misfortune, affable with his soldiers, inexhaustible in resources, invincible in resolution, he displayed in that guerilla warfare the talents of a consummate general. In vain Thurreau sent against him General Haxo, one of the ablest of the Republican commanders; his indefatigable opponent retired before him till he arrived at a favorable place of attack, and then turning to his men and ordering them to halt, "We have retired far enough," said he "now is the time to show the convention that La Vendée still exists." With that they precipitated them-